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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

10/714349

Inventor: Roger F. Sutcliffe.

Title: Electrical Connector (Receptacle) with easily Removable Bottom

Filing Date: November 15, 2003

Art Unit: 2833

Examiner: Edwin A. Leon

RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL LETTER MAILED July 28, 2005

Dear Sir:

The applicant traverses the comments of the Examiner in this Official Letter. The applicant requests that the Examiner grant his attorney a telephone interview. Applicant's attorney had called the Examiner about a week ago requesting such an interview.

The Examiner's rejection is respectfully believed to be erroneous because the Applicant both describes and claims a connector in which the interconnecting pin fits **through** the socket sleeve to engage and remove the barrier.

The cited art does not show this feature. Murphy, 6,325,280, shows a surface mounted connector on solder balls '52. If you put Dickie's (2005/0106909) barrier means on the Murphy device where would it be placed? If you place the barrier on the solder balls, it performs no useful function since the interconnecting pin does not fit through the sleeve to remove the barrier after soldering. The purpose of the removable barrier is to protect the contact from injury during a soldering operation,

Murphy shows a device which has only a surface mount – a single solder connection. Sutcliffe claims a connector which fits through the sleeve and engages the contact member and has a double solder connection. Murphy shows a connector which fits into but **not** through the sleeve to be attached to the solder ball at the end of the sleeve. If the barrier were used it would only interfere with the solder connection.

The Dickie barrier is a bellows shaped shield 14 which compresses and surrounds but is not pierced by connecting blades. It can not be physically combined with Murphy to duplicate either the structure or function of the present invention. The kraft paper which is used in the Dickie disclosure is not numbered or shown in any figure but it is used apparently as a temporary cover to prevent the adhesive used to connect the bellows like cover to the plug from becoming contaminated or attached. Its physical structure is unknown. Therefore it is impossible to say how it might be used in combination with Murphy to anticipate the present invention. Another important difference between the structures is the Dickie uses kraft paper to protect an adhesive not a contact within a sleeve. Sutcliffe has no adhesive to protect and discloses and claims a structure for removing the kraft paper. Dickie neither discloses nor shows how the temporary barrier is removed.

Since it is impossible to say how it might fit structurally it is equally impossible to say that the combination is obvious and therefore anticipates the present invention.

The Examiner is proposing to mix two different electrical arts for his combination. The Murphy field is similar to that of the present invention – connectors for printed circuit boards. The Dickie field is that of standard 110 volt circuits used around North America. This art has nothing to do with arrays of electrical connectors on circuits boards and structures for making interconnections of such elements. The design disciplines are different and the structures and problems are different. It is not believed to be plausible to combine structures from these two disparate arts to attempt to make a combination to anticipate the present invention.

Since claim 1 is believed to be allowable all of the other claims which are dependent on allowable claim 1 are also allowable.

Allowance of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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10/714349-10/25/05

CETIFICATE OF MAILING

The undersigned certifies that this correspondence is mailed, postage prepaid, first class mail, to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 25, 2005.


David S. Woronoff